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July 17, 2009

Colonel Anthony Wright
Seattle District Commander
PO Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Col. Wright:

As I continue to closely monitor the Twin Cities Flood Reduction Project, I am following up on our recent conversation regarding the status of the project in order to gain further insights into project options.

As you know, there is a group of community leaders in Lewis County who have coordinated an ongoing water retention study that is being supported by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority. This study is examining the impacts of building two dams on the Chehalis River; above Pe Ell and in Boistfort Valley. I am interested in learning how this study can complement the ongoing Corps work, and respectfully request answers to the following questions:

- Can the Army Corps consider the water retention study when it is complete and merge the data into the existing Twin Cities Flood Reduction Project?
- By what means could the Army Corps evaluate and report on which flood control measures would provide the most comprehensive flood protection by comparing the combination of levees and dams?
- Can the Army Corps re-evaluate the 1982 study of water retention in the upper Chehalis Basin, taking into account the subsequent floods and compare the data to findings of the current water retention study?

It is not my intention to delay the ongoing design work for the Twin Cities Flood Reduction Project. I believe this project will provide critical protection for residents of Centralia and Chehalis. However I also believe it's vitally important that we remain engaged in the process to ensure the best possible outcome.

I am in close contact with members of the community who are working hard to understand the issues, explore all potential options, and participate in making the best

possible decisions. I believe we share the same goal: to provide the best protection for the greatest number of citizens and communities in the Chehalis River Basin. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Brian N. Baird
Member of Congress

CC:

Ron Averill, Lewis County Commissioner, Flood Authority Chairman

Terry Willis, Grays Harbor Commissioner, Flood Authority Vice Chairman

David Mueller, Lewis County Public Utilities Director